

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-05

/067 W

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R 081620Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7169

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 0167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BR

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO YEAR-END PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT GEISEL'S DECEMBER 30 SPEECH (REFTEL). GENERAL REACTION HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, WITH PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR GEISEL'S REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CHARACTERIZED GEISEL'S SPEECH AS FORTHRIGHT, NOTED THAT THE SPEECH DID NOT SEEK TO DISGUISE FROM THE NATION THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE GOB CONFRONTS; THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAD LAID OUT THE SACRIFICES AND COSTS OF BRAZIL'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THE PROBLEMS THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME BEFORE BRAZIL ACHIEVES "ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY". O ESTADO OBSERVED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT HESITATED TO ADMIT THAT BRAZILIAN INDUSTRY STILL CANNOT COUNT ON THE DOMESTIC MARKET ALONE TO MAINTAIN RAPID GROWTH. IN THE PAPER'S VIEW, GEISEL'S DETERMINATION TO STEM INFLATION WAS THE BEST GIFT THE GOB COULD HAVE OFFERED BRAZIL. A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM TO REDUCE INFLATION WOULD JUSTIFY THE STATEMENT THAT BRAZIL IS AN "OASIS" OF PEACE, ORDER, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND POLITICAL STABILITY, AND A COUNTRY OFFERING EXCELLENT

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN A TROUBLED WORLD. O ESTADO ALSO STRESSED THAT GEISEL CONSIDERED THE GRAVEST BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OVERCOME AND THE MOST SEVERE DISTORTIONS OF THE ECONOMY ADJUSTED, WHILE NOTING GEISEL'S STATEMENT ABOUT PROTECTIONIST MEASURES TAKEN BY SOME OF MOST TRADITIONALLY LIBERAL NATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

3. BRASILIA NEWSPAPER, CONSERVATIVE CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, EMPHASIZED THE BALANCED TONE AND THE CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM OF THE SPEECH BY SAYING THAT GEISEL'S ADDRESS WAS A "MAJOR LESSON" ON THE REAL BRAZILIAN SITUATION, WITHOUT EXCESSIVELY OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC FORECASTS.

4. LOCAL LIBERAL JORNAL DE BRASILIA NOTED THAT GEISEL HAD LAID STRESS ON SOCIAL PROGRAMS AS AMONG THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. THE JORNAL NOTED THAT THE RESULTS OF GOB SOCIAL MEASURES TAKEN SO FAR ARE EVIDENCE OF IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR ALL OF THE BRAZILIAN POPULATION; EXISTING SOCIAL POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO WAIT UNTIL THE NATION'S ECONOMIC "PIE" INCREASES IN SIZE.

5. THE INFLUENTIAL RIO DAILY JORNAL DO BRASIL EXPRESSED SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW MUCH OF THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES MADE BY THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION WILL AIM AT GROWTH AND HOW MUCH TOWARD IMPROVING BRAZIL'S INCOME DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, JORNAL DO BRASIL SAID THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN ADMINISTRATIVE, FISCAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS WITH CLEAR PURPOSE OF GIVING, IN THE NEAR TERM, A LARGER NUMBER OF BRAZILIANS A MORE ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SPEECHES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 MAR 2003 by daviscw>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS REACTION TO YEAR-END PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH  
**TAGS:** EGEN, BR, (GEISEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006